

I would like to take this opportunity to state, for the record, that I am in favor of elimination of the Morse code testing requirement for any and all classes of amateur radio license. As a licensed amateur since 1971, I have enjoyed operating many different modes, including Morse. Some of my fondest memories are of simple transmitters built for CW, and I still enjoy that aspect of our hobby to this day. However, technology and society have changed greatly in the 32 years I have held an amateur license. It is time to once and for all allow CW join the many other wonderful modes of amateur radio as an equal, rather than continuing to elevate it to a "make them or break them" status.

There are many fine amateur operators with Technician class licenses that have contributed greatly to the hobby who never took a test in Morse code. There are many fine operators in the higher class licenses as well who did have to pass the code requirements. There are also those negative individuals, code tested or not, who have abuse the privilege that we have to operate as amateurs. This is a fact in all areas of society, requiring or not requiring proficiency in Morse code makes no difference whatsoever. There will always be a lot of good honest folks who want to do the right thing, and a few troublemakers.

If amateur radio is to survive in the technology driven future, we must not hinder the hobby by continuing to discriminate against would-be fine additions to our ranks by requiring one of the least technological and oldest modes to be a single, determining factor.

Respectfully submitted,  
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